AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

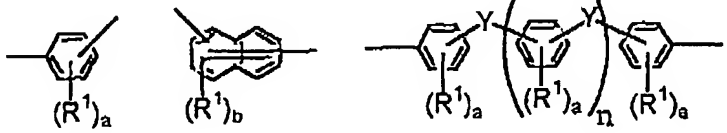
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

What is claimed is;

1. (currently amended) A block copolymer comprising at least one segment having an acid group and at least one segment substantially free from an acid group, wherein the segment having an acid group comprises a repeating unit which is a substituted repeating unit represented in the formula (1) with an acid group,

$$-(Ar^1\text{-}X^1\text{-}Ar^2\text{-}X^2)- \quad (1),$$

and in the formula (1) , X^1 and X^2 being each independently -0- or -S-, Ar^1 and Ar^2 being each independently an aromatic group selected from the groups represented by the following formulae (2) to (4),



(2) (3) (4)

wherein, R1 is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitrile ~~nitryl~~ group, a nitro group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group with a carbon number of 1 to 10, an optionally substituted alkoxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 10, an optionally substituted aryl group

with a carbon number of 6 to 10, or an optionally substituted aryloxy group with a carbon number of 6 to 10, a is an integer of 0 to 4, and b is an integer of 0 to 6, in a case of plural R^1, R^1 may be the same or different, or be bonded to each other, Y is a direct bond, -0-, -S-, an optionally substituted alkylene group with a carbon number of 1 to 6, or an optionally substituted alkylenedioxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 6, and n is an integer of 0 to 2, in a case of plural Y, Y may be the same or different, and in a case where both of X^1 and X^2 are -0-, both of Ar^1 and Ar^2 being not the group represented by the formula (2).

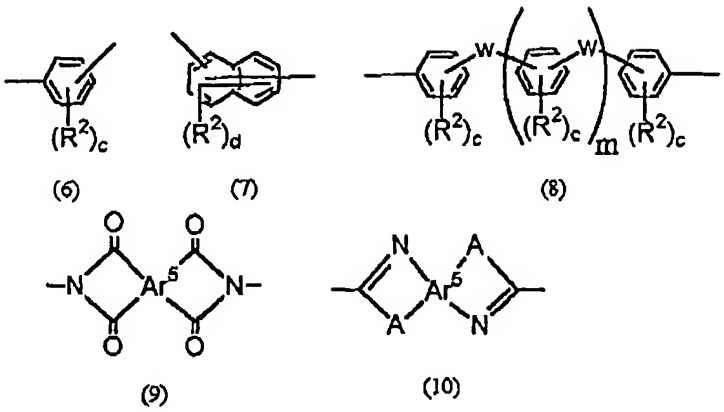
2. (original) The copolymer according to Claim 1, wherein the acid group is a strong acid group or a super strong acid group.

3. (amended) The copolymer according to ~~any one of Claim 1 to 2,~~ Claim 1, wherein X^1 and X^2 are -O-.

4. (amended) The copolymer according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3,~~ Claim 1, wherein the segment substantially free from an acid group comprises a repeating unit represented by the following formula (5),

$$-(Ar^3\text{-}Z^1\text{-}Ar^4\text{-}Z^2)- \quad (5),$$

in the formula (5), ~~Z being~~ Z^1 and Z^2 each independently representing direct bond, -O- or -S-, and Ar^3 and Ar^4 being each independently an aromatic group selected from the groups represented by the following formulae (6) to (10),

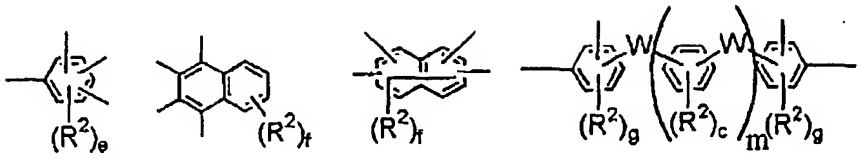


(6) (7) (8)

(9) (10)

wherein, R^2 is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitrile ~~nitryl~~ group, a nitro group, an amino group, an optionally substituted alkyl group with a carbon number of 1 to 10, an optionally substituted alkoxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 10, an optionally substituted aryl group with a carbon number of 6 to 10, or an optionally substituted aryloxy group with a carbon number of 6 to 10, c is an integer of 0 to 4, and d is an integer of 0 to 6, in a case of plural R^2, R^2 may be the same or different, or be bonded to each other , W is a direct bond, -0-, -S-, -CO-, -SO_2-, an optionally substituted alkylene group with a carbon number of 1 to 6, or an optionally substituted alkylenedioxy group with a carbon number of 1 to 6, m is an integer of 0 to 2, in a case of plural W, W may be the same or different, A is -O-, -S-, or -NR^3- in which R^3 is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted alkyl group with a carbon number of 1 to 10, two of A may be the same or different, Ar^5 is an aromatic group selected from the groups represented by the following formulae

(11) to (14)



(11) (12) (13) (14)

where, R^2, W and m are the same as the above, e is an integer of 0 to 2, f is an integer of 0 to 4, and g an integer of 0 to 3.

5. (original) A polymer electrolyte comprising the copolymer according to Claim 1.

6. (original) A polymer electrolyte membrane comprising the polymer electrolyte according to Claim 5.

7. (original) A catalyst composition comprising the polymer electrolyte according to Claim 5.

8. (original) A fuel cell comprising the polymer electrolyte membrane according to Claim 6.

9. (original) A fuel cell comprising the catalyst composition according to Claim 7.